CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (original): A printing apparatus configured to print on a media and minimize distortion of the media during printing, the apparatus comprising:

a printing zone for printing in a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a heated media deflector configured to guide and dry the media, the heated media deflector located downstream of the horizontal printing zone.

2. (canceled): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a substantially vertical feeding path downstream of the heated media deflector wherein the heated media deflector is a transition feeding area between the horizontal printing zone and the vertical path.

3. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~2~~1, wherein the heated media deflector comprises;

a plastic support portion; and

a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic support portion, the sheet metal portion configured to contact and guide the media.

4. (original): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below the horizontal.

5. (original): The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a heating resistor heating the sheet metal to dry the media, the heating resistor being attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal portion.

6. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for directing the media into ~~the~~a vertical feeding path.

7. (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank preventing heat loss.

8. (original): The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

9. (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the printing zone comprises a printhead arrangement printing on the media and a platen for supporting the media during printing.

10. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the vertical feeding path includes an exit where the media exits the printing apparatus.

11. (currently amended): A method of reducing distortion in media during an inkjet printing process when the media travels from a substantially horizontal printing plane to a substantially vertical feeding path, the method comprising:

printing an image on the media in the substantially horizontal printing plane;

feeding the media in the substantially vertical feeding path after printing the image; and

heating the media, by passing ~~it~~the media over a heated media deflector in a transition area between the substantially horizontal printing plane and the substantially vertical feeding path.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein ~~the step of~~ printing comprises printing water-based ink from an inkjet printhead and providing a paper-based web media.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~step of~~ heating the media comprises producing an amount of heat to evaporate excess water from the water-based ink.

14. (canceled): A method of reducing distortion in inkjet printers, the method comprising:

detecting environmental conditions;

determining print mode parameters; and

setting a heating temperature for heating the media based on the detected environmental conditions and the determined print mode parameters.

15. (canceled): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of detecting the environmental conditions includes detecting the temperature and the humidity in the printer.

16. (canceled): The method of claim 15, wherein the print mode parameters include plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

17. (canceled): The method of claim 16, wherein the heating temperature is approximately 50°C to 70°C.

18. (currently amended): A heated media deflector for an inkjet printer comprising:

a deflector that includes

_____a plastic support portion;

_____a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion; and

_____a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal.

19. (original): The heated media deflector of claim 18, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below the horizontal.

20. (original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for smoothly directing a media to a vertical feeding path.

21. (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank for preventing heat loss.

22. (original): The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank for attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

23. (new): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a system to

at least one of

detect environmental conditions, and

determine print mode parameters; and

set a heating temperature of the media deflector based on the detected environmental conditions and/or the determined print mode parameters.

24. (new): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the environmental conditions comprise at least one of the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

25. (new): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the print mode parameters comprise at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

26. (new): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the heating temperature is approximately 50°C to 70°C.

27. (new): The method of claim 11 wherein the heating comprises setting a heating temperature for heating the media based on at least one of environmental conditions and print mode parameters.

28. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the environmental conditions includes the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

29. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the print mode parameters include at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

30. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the heating further comprises heating the media to a temperature of approximately 50°C to 70°C.